

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
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For Immediate Release

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HIKING TRAILS OFF LIMITS ONCE MORE

TUCSON, AZ (May 27, 2006) 1:00 p.m. - - - The U.S. Forest Service, Santa Catalina Ranger District, is asking once again for cooperation from hikers to avoid the following trails until further notice:

- Marshall Gulch
- Samaniego
- Sutherland
- Mt. Lemmon
- Romero
- Sabino Basin trails

While the Romero Fire has had little activity in the past 24 hours, there have been some flare-ups, and staying off the trails mentioned is a precautionary measure.

Today has been declared a 'Red Flag' Day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., meaning the low humidity, high winds and extreme dryness of fuels combine to cause some concern for the possibility of fire activity. At present, there are three Type 1 Hot Shot crews on scene along with one hand crew from Arizona State Department of Corrections, one Type 2 and one Type 3 helicopters. A helitanker is standing by, but is unable to fly in this wind.

The Romero Fire is still within the perimeter at 764 acres and 95% contained. The remaining members of the Type 1 Incident Management team were sent home Friday, and the local Ranger District assumed command.

Another fire, the Clark Fire, has burned 10 to 15 acres in the vicinity of Pena Blanca Lake, NW of Nogales, Arizona. At present, one Type 1 Hot Shot crew is working the fire and one helicopter, along with one hand crew and one engine from the Nogales Ranger District. No structures are threatened at this time. Cause of fire is under investigation.

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